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DE RUEHZP #0310 1062056
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
R 162056Z APR 09
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 3277
INFO RUEHZA/WHA CENTRAL AMERICAN COLLECTIVE
RUEHZI/WHA IM POSTS COLLECTIVE
RUEHRC/DEPT OF AGRICULTURE WASHDC
RUCPDO/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHDC

UNCLAS PANAMA 000310

SIPDIS

PASS TO USTR FOR LESLIE O'CONNOR; USDA/FAS FOR RONALD LORD,
AND EB/TPP/ABT/ATP JOHN MENARD

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [EAGR](#) [ETRD](#)

SUBJECT: PANAMA: DEMARCHE DELIVERED- U.S. WTO RAW SUGAR
TARIFF RATE QUOTA

REF: REFTEL: SECSTATE 31013

11. (U) The GOP has confirmed that Panamanian sugar mills expect to export the 9,330 tons remaining in the FY 2009 sugar quota. Furthermore, the GOP noted that they would be interested in exporting more sugar in addition to the FY 2009 quota if authorized to do so.

12. (U) The Ministry of Commerce responded in writing to the demarche stating the following.

BEGIN SUBSTANTIVE TEXT (Unofficial Translation):

Dear Maria Victoria:

Please receive my best wishes and desire for success in your duties. I would like to inform you that we have talked with Engineer Raul Dias of the Azucarera Nacional (National Sugar Millers) in regard to the remaining sugar quota and any additional amount that may be given for FY 2008 - 2009. He (Dias) informed us that the Panamanian sugar mills are interested in exporting all the sugar that can be made available this year under the quota.

I hope this information answers your questions.

Sincerely,

Ricardo Tunon
Head of the "Ventanilla" (Desk) for Foreign Trade
Ministry of Commerce and Industry
Republic of Panama

END TEXT
STEPHENSON